

# Course helps Airmen get 'Ready to Deploy'

Story and photos by Maj. Don Langley

Public Affairs

Seven Airmen became the first here to receive ground combat training under Air Combat Command's new Ready to Deploy program Monday and Tuesday.

As operations continue around the world, an increasing number of Airmen are serving alongside Soldiers and Marines in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Life on the front lines presents new challenges and demands skills that aren't always emphasized at home station. Senior Airman George Keen, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle dispatcher, recently returned from several months of convoy duty in Iraq.

"I've heard people complain about having to go shoot the M-16. I hadn't shot since basic — almost two years — and now I was carrying an M-4 every day, everywhere I went. I didn't turn it into the armory at the end of the day. I knew what we were going over there to do, but I had no idea what it'd be like," Airman Keen said.

The Ready to Deploy course helps provide the new mindset needed for the war on terrorism by providing a glimpse of life in the field, said Tech. Sgt. Steven Porter, 509th Security Forces Squadron. Sergeant Porter designed the Ready to Deploy class at Whiteman to meet ACC requirements.

"A few (Air Force specialty codes) are used to emphasizing weapons and ground combat training," Sergeant Porter said. "But many are not. Recent operations underline the need to enhance core ground combat skills for all Airmen."

The new course includes 16.5 hours of instruction. The first day is spent in the classroom, covering weapons familiarization, how to move, cover and conceal in a ground combat environment, the basics of vehicle convoys, and dealing with unexploded ordnance.

"These are skills our Army and Marine teammates train as a full-time job," said Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, who was one of the Airmen participating in the two-day course. "We bring our own unique Air Force skills to the fight, but familiarity with ground combat tasks is critical for all Airmen who go into the tough CENTCOM AOR. That's why we're doing this."

Airman Keen and other 509th LRS members went through several weeks of specialized training with Air Force Security Forces in Texas before heading to Iraq in 2004. Although the Ready to Deploy course is not as long or detailed, it exposes Airmen to some of the same concepts.

"In the past, you just



**Above: Senior Airman Christina Rider, 509th Operations Support Squadron, helps Airman 1st Class Jamie Feldhacker, 509th Bomb Wing, make adjustments to her field gear.**

**Below: Smoke conceals Senior Airman Trevor Casebolt, 509th Security Forces Squadron, as he prepares to "attack" students during the Ready to Deploy class Tuesday.**

filled out your paperwork and went," said Tech. Sgt. Brian McGee, 509th LRS vehicle operations supervisor. "You trained at home in your PT gear, not your field gear. To get ready for our deployment, we were training in full level four (protective armor) gear, on uneven terrain, running around in August. We didn't go by the heat stress rest cycles, either — there weren't any black flag days."

"The biggest shocker for me was the self-aid and buddy care training on steroids," said Airman Keen. The seven 12-hour days of medical training qualified him as a combat life-saver — skills he later used when

his convoy came under attack.

Ready to Deploy students put classroom knowledge to use on the second day of training through a series of field exercises. Blank ammunition and various pyrotechnics created a combat environment to practice tactical skills. After the combat training, the 509th Medical Group provided a first aid and buddy care refresher course.

Staff Sgts. Aaron Yurko and Mark Wood, 509th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controllers, were two of the first Ready to Deploy students.

"This is all stuff we don't normally do very often, so it's a good idea to have the training," Sergeant Yurko said.

"The UXO training was interesting. The instructors pointed out how often you can run across them over there," said Sergeant Wood.

Sergeant McGee and Airman Keen said their weeks of training with security forces made a big difference in how prepared they were for their deployment, and stressed that Airmen should take all training opportunities seriously. Personal preparation is equally important — the Air Force now stresses physical conditioning for a reason, they said.

"You need to push beyond your comfort level," Sergeant McGee said. "You need to be able to carry 50 pounds of gear and still perform in a stressful situation."

Learning from those who have been there is also important. Each Ready to Deploy class will provide a chance to talk with deployment veterans, but Airmen don't have to wait for the class to take advantage of the growing pool of experience.

"Talk to the people who've been there," said Master Sgt. Jim Bird, 509th LRS vehicle operations superintendent. "Most of us took cameras over there, and came back with pictures to show others what it's like. It isn't lush green Missouri over there. Outside the wire, it's sand, vipers, scorpions and people who are out to hurt you. You need to be ready."

"If students learn something here that saves just one life in the field, it's worth all the time and effort that's put into it," said Sergeant Porter. "It took a team effort to produce the course. We had help from LRS, the legal office, explosive ordnance disposal, medical group, services and the personnel readiness unit."

Airmen must attend the Ready to Deploy class before serving in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Unit deployment managers will schedule training as part of deployment outprocessing. ACC projects about 70,000 Airmen will eventually receive the training. For more details about the course, call

Sergeant Porter  
at 687-5804.





# Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Miller

509th Bomb Wing Commander

**Changing of the Guard.** Hundreds of 509ers headed west this week to replace their teammates at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. This movement of personnel and equipment continues our historic, first-time Air and Space Expeditionary Forces rotation to provide a bomber forward presence in the Pacific Command area of responsibility. For those who are returning home, thanks for all you've done while deployed to enhance peace and stability in an important region.

For those now taking up the task, God speed and good luck! For the families of those both returning and deploying — Rhonda and I deeply appreciate the support you provide your loved one as they serve America!

**Why learn to "rush and roll"?** ... simply, because the nature of the war on terrorism has made us expand how we think about our mission. When called, we must be mentally and physically ready to repel insurgent attacks and provide emergency medical care ... all while remaining able to launch the most lethal aircraft ever built towards their targets.

As we all know, thousands of Airmen are today quietly providing support services to front-line Army and Marine units — but it's an environment and role that's new to non-security forces Airmen. That's why Air Combat Command directed all deployers bound for the Central Command AOR to go through a "Ready to Deploy" course



Photo by Senior Airman Leila Hemenway

**Airman 1st Class Fauzia Khan, 509th logistics Readiness Squadron, verifies information before Senior Airman Rosemary Morrelli boards the bus to take the rotator to Guam. Airman Morrelli is assigned to the 325th Bomb Squadron.**

before leaving. I took time to be in the first class of students at Whiteman because this is important training.

It's clear that Tech. Sgt. Steven Porter, 509th Security Forces Squadron, has put together a jam-packed two-day session to build some critical combat skills we don't use every day. My "classmates" were Staff Sgts. Aaron Yurko and Mark Wood; Senior Airmen Becky Jaimes and Christina Rider (all from the 509th Operations Support Squadron), Airman First Class Jamie Feldhacker from the command post, and Airman First Class Jessica Snapp from the 509th Munitions Squadron. I send my thanks to them for their teamwork in the field exercise! To Sergeant Porter and all those who helped him put together an important class for our Airmen: Well done!

**Bull's-eye!** This week one of our B-2s conducted a live weapons test of the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, "shacking" a target off the coast of Florida. This test was an important part of demonstrating JASSM's huge capability enhancement for America's bomber force. You can be proud of the role the 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron and the B-2 is playing in the fielding of JASSM.

**Shining Stars.** This week, Whiteman recognized more than 500 volunteers who contributed the annual equivalent of almost three-quarters of a million dollars worth of labor to making our base a great place to live and work. We recognized quarterly award winners whose positive, can-do performance is an inspiration to others. We also saw several thousand dollars in scholarship money awarded to children and spouses of Air Force members, in a process run by volunteers. People like these — volunteers, top performers, good students — are the "wind beneath the wings" of our B-2 mission. Well done!

# Airmen can learn lessons from historical leaders

By Lt. Col. Chris Harness

72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron Commander

I'm a big proponent of making good use of the past. How previous Air Force brothers and sisters confronted challenges are a lesson for how we can overcome today's challenges. For instance, you wouldn't think of deploying without contacting the person who was there before you. So, too, you should think of history as a well documented after action report.

One of my favorite historical mentors is Gen. George Kenney, commander of Allied air forces under Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the Southwest Pacific. I admire General Kenney because he adapted his experiences to specific situations. The techniques he used to prevail can be applied by anyone in any job. He triumphed because he took care of his people, set and stuck to his priorities, and used innovation to accomplish what seemed to be an impossible task.

I believe innovation was the most important aspect of his three-prong attack to accomplishing the mission.

For example, the Southwest Pacific was the last priority of World War II's three theaters. Germany first was the Allied strategy from the onset, which meant the lion's share of resources went to Europe to prepare for the invasion of France.

Next was the Central Pacific theater under Navy Adm. Chester Nimitz because of Pearl Harbor and the maritime nature of

the war against Japan. More than once, aircraft earmarked for General Kenney became "emergency requisitioned" by Admiral Nimitz.

However, Japan's main source of essential warmaking materials like rubber and petroleum came from the Southwest Pacific and General MacArthur was a demanding boss. General Kenney successfully supported General MacArthur's push to return to the Philippines on a supply shoestring with shunned equipment. General Kenney truly did more with less.

In the Southwest Pacific, frontline combat aircraft like the P-51 and B-17 aircraft were hard to get. Therefore, General Kenney made do with hand-me-downs: the P-39 Aircobra, the P-40 Warhawk and the P-38 Lighting.

The Pacific theater was vast, so the general designed and produced drop tanks for these aircraft to improve range, and had them produced in Australia. He further improved the range of the P-38 by allowing his pilots to shut down an engine while cruising.

General Kenney developed tactics that highlighted the strengths and minimized the weaknesses of his aircraft, like using the P-38 to force the Japanese Zeros to lower altitudes where the P-39 was more effective and waiting to receive them.

The bomber he used was the B-25 Mitchell. From it, he created the most deadly commerce raider ever made. The



Historical photo

**Gen. George Kenney was the commander of Allied forces during World War II.**

high-altitude precision bombing used in the European theater worked well against targets like factories and refineries, but proved ineffective against moving ships.

General Kenney encouraged a change in bomb delivery — the skip bombing technique. Releasing a bomb at very low altitude at a precise speed would allow it to skip across the water like a rock. Building a delay timer in the fuse allowed the bomb to strike the side of the ship, slide below the water and explode, producing a hole below the waterline.

This tactic made the aircraft vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire so General Kenney worked on ways to suppress a ship's defenses. With his full-time innovator Maj.

Pappy Gunn, he put eight 50-caliber machine guns in the B-52's nose so they could be fired by the pilot. This lethal combination of suppression and accuracy culminated in the Battle of the Bismark Sea, where General Kenney's commerce raiders decimated eight destroyers and eight transports with little loss to themselves.

The general proved that when you're faced with a problem that seems to have no solution, maybe the solution is changing the way it's done. Before you say it can't be done, brainstorm. You may find there's another way to make it happen.

The challenges we face with today's budget cuts give General Kenney's innovations new credibility. I encourage you to follow his lead. Prioritize where you can have the most effect on the mission and find alternative ways to a solution.

I've only scratched the surface of the impact General Kenney had on the Air Force and World War II. In a time when the U.S. Air Force didn't enjoy the qualitative advantage it has today, the general enjoyed amazing success despite the disadvantages.

He made the most with what he was given because his first focus was on the welfare of his people, he set priorities and stuck to them, and he used innovation to modify the tools he had to fit his mission. It may be at a different scale but we face similar challenges here. I submit that you can learn from General Kenney and overcome them.

## Editorial Staff

509th BW Commander ..... Col. Chris Miller  
Chief, Public Affairs ..... Maj. Don Langley  
Internal Information ..... Senior Airman Neo Martin  
Editor ..... Senior Airman Joe Lacdan  
Staff writer ..... Airman Jason Burton  
Staff writer ..... Melissa Klinkner

Published by The Sedalia Democrat, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Whiteman Air Force Base.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Whiteman Spirit* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of



Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or The Sedalia Democrat of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, age, religion, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sex, physical handicap, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. Editorial content is

edited, prepared and provided by the Office of Public Affairs of the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo. All photos in the *Whiteman Spirit* are official U.S. Air Force photos, unless otherwise noted. The Services Page is a supplement to the *Whiteman Spirit* and is provided by the 509th Services Squadron.

**The deadline for article submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.**

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil or write to us at:

509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111  
Whiteman AFB, Mo. 65305



# Enhancement course opens doors to civilians

By Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole  
Public Affairs

The NCO professional enhancement course recently opened its doors to base civilian students. Cie Gafford and Lisa Kimmel were the first ones to join 30 staff sergeants in the class April 18-20.

The course bridges the education gap for junior NCOs between airman leadership school and the NCO academy.

"It provides an atmosphere for our young supervisors to network and share experiences," said Master Sgt. Warren Weakley, 509th Bomb Wing career assistance adviser and NCO PEC superintendent. "They realize they may be having problems that someone else may have already dealt with and bounce advice off each other."

Students also get first-hand knowledge and experience from various base senior leaders on Whiteman. Sergeant Weakley said these factors prompted him to open the class to civilian supervisors.

"We are all one team. Civilians are a big factor in our mission and should be receiving identical information so they can be more effective supervisors," he said. "This puts all Airmen on a level playing field when receiving career path advice, performance feedback, enlisted performance reports, awards and decorations, etc."

Staff Sgt. Beau Parker attended the class with Ms. Gafford and Ms. Kimmel. The 10-year veteran has never had a civilian supervisor, but he said the class is important for civilian supervisors.

"It's important for anyone who supervises to take this class, especially a civilian who hasn't had ALS or any other formal supervisory training. Civilians can take this class to enhance their knowledge of the Air Force and their supervisory skills for dealing with military members," said the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron member.

The class was well received by Ms. Gafford, 509th LRS, and Ms. Kimmel, 509th Communications Squadron.

"I enjoyed the class," said Ms. Gafford,



Photo by Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole

**Staff Sgts. Denise Forrest and Beau Parker write enlisted performance report bullet statements with Lisa Kimmel at the NCO professional enhancement course April 18-20. This was the first class attended by civilian supervisors who work on base.**

who as the mobility element chief supervises 11 military members. "I found the sessions concerning Air Force writing techniques, and awards and recognition programs to be highly informative. Additionally, the importance of mentoring was stressed as the cornerstone of the supervisory process."

Ms. Gafford said mixing civilians and military members was a good decision.

"It was important to attend this class with military members taught by military members for the simple fact that it was

hands-on training for me. It allowed me to actually see and be a member of the class, to apply some of the lessons learned and also to have foresight into what the troops in the future will be learning and experiencing when they attend this particular class," she said.

Ms. Kimmel said even though the class was steered toward active-duty members, she learned a lot.

"Being in class with military members was a learning experience. Listening to their problems and comparing them with mine

made me realize they're the same. It was good to hear that I'm not the only one with issues," said Ms. Kimmel, who supervises one person in her job as the base records and Freedom of Information Act manager.

This is just the reaction Sergeant Weakley said he hoped for.

"They attended because they want to be more effective leaders and supervisors," he said. "Although the attire is different, the mission is the same. I hope they use the tools received on a daily basis to better supervise their Airmen."

## DTS training offered

The Defense Travel System will soon be online at Whiteman. It changes the way temporary duty assignment arrangements are made and vouchers are processed.

To prepare for the activation dates, Air Combat Command Office of Financial Management officials will provide training at the base theater. Base members are highly encouraged to attend one of these training sessions.

### Wednesday

10 a.m.-noon: 509th Bomb Wing staff, and 509th Comptroller and Civil Engineer squadrons

1-3 p.m.: 509th Logistics Readiness and Mission Support squadrons

### Thursday

10 a.m.-noon: 509th Mission Support Group staff, and 509th Communications and 509th Contracting squadrons

1-3 p.m.: 509th Security Forces and 509th Services squadrons

### May 17

10 a.m.-noon: 509th Maintenance Group staff, and 509th Aircraft Maintenance and Maintenance Operations squadrons

1-3 p.m.: 509th MXG staff, and 509th Munitions and Maintenance squadrons

### May 18

10 a.m.-noon: 509th Operations Group  
1-3 p.m.: 509th Medical Group, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, and tenant units

People can visit the 509th Comptroller Squadron's DTS Web site at <https://intranet.whiteman.af.mil/509BW/BW/CPTS/DTS.html> for more details.

People can also call Master Sgt. Albert Concepcion at 687-5372, 1st Lt. Mark Koeppen at 687-6327 or Staff Sgt. Melanie Danker at 687-4466 for more details.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

## B-2 'scouting'

Boy Scouts observe a B-2 static display Saturday during the Boy Scout Camporee here. More than 680 Boy Scouts toured the base during the three-day event. Scouts, who came from as far as Dexter, Mich., camped out near the S-6 Alert facility April 22-Sunday.

## Whiteman Spirit Award



### Tech. Sgt. Randy Sellers

509th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Sellers, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Matthew Erichsen, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Monday.

Martin Bessant, 509th BW, nominated Sergeant Sellers for the award.

During the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty Formally Declared Facility Inspection April 1, Mr. Bessant and other members of the advance operational security team were conducting security checks. The team arrived at the Bldg. 709 after duty hours. The team found most of the doors locked, but then encountered Sergeant Sellers.

Mr. Bessant explained the situation to Sergeant Sellers, who then retrieved the necessary keys for the team.

"When he found a door he didn't have a key or combo for, he literally ran, got the key and returned," Mr.

Bessant said. "Without Sergeant Sellers' help and enthusiasm we wouldn't have been able to complete our operations security sweep. His effort was definitely above and beyond his normal duties."

### Personally Speaking

**Duty title:** Superintendent of unaccompanied housing

**Time on station:** 3 years, 3 months

**Time in service:** 17 years, 8 months

**Hometown:** Morris, Okla.

**Spouse:** Patty

**Children:** Jessica, 17, and Cody, 9

**Hobbies:** Fishing, camping with my son and computers.

**Goals:** Make master sergeant and finish my bachelor's degree.

**Best thing about Whiteman:** A great place to raise my children.

**Pet Peeves:** Being late.

**What motivates your winning spirit?** Regardless of the task at hand, I always try to do my best.

**If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be?** I would like to see more base involvement with the local area youth organizations. I'd like to see squadrons adopt groups like the Cub Scouts to help with camping trips, fund raisers or the little league baseball summer youth programs in the area to help maintain the baseball fields. There is so much we can do to help the youth in our community.

### Submitting a Whiteman Spirit Award

Individuals are nominated from within their units or by customers impressed with the superior customer service provided by the nominee.

If you know someone who has the Whiteman Spirit, send the nomination to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 509, Suite 111, or e-mail whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.

# This space is reserved for advertisements

**NO** Underage drinking **NO** DU's **0-0-1-3**  
**1** drink per hour **3** drinks per night **-NUMBERS TO LIVE BY.**





# Workin' more than the bugs out

## Environmental controls keeps Whiteman looking its best



Tech. Sgt. Scott Smith, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron NCO in charge of Environmental Controls, squeezes caulk along a baseboard. The special caulk attracts and kills roaches and is more effective than spraying, Sergeant Smith said.



Galen Smith, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, fills a Cushman turf sprayer tank with a pesticide and water mix. The turf sprayer is a machine used for spraying dandelions and other unwanted vegetation and insects.



Airman 1st Class Kepler Baksh, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Controls journeyman, replaces spray nozzles on a Cushman turf sprayer. Nozzles are changed as needed through normal wear and tear and are cleaned on a monthly basis when in use.

By Melissa Klinkner  
Public Affairs

Environmental controls is at your service. Little known to most, a small team of five controls the insects, rodents and weeds on base.

To keep things under control, the three military, two civilian EC team performs tasks such as spraying weeds two to three times per year along the 15 miles of fence line surrounding Whiteman. Doing this allows the 509th Security Forces Squadron to inspect the integrity of the fence line. The team also sprays Whiteman for dandelions during the spring and fall.

Many different types of equipment and tools are used to help the team keep Whiteman looking its best.

The equipment includes a Cushman turf sprayer used for spraying dandelions, other unwanted vegetation and insects. The EC crew also use a tractor for spreading a weed and feed fertilizer.

Tools range from a hand sprayer, used as a last resort for insect problems, to a hilti drill, used to penetrate through cement to poison soil under the concrete, promoting effective termite control.

Each year, the EC team sprays approximately 100 gallons of weed-killer and 120 gallons of dandelion killer — more than 50 Cushman tanks of chemicals.

Tech. Sgt. Scott Smith, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, said he enjoys working as part of the EC team and believes the team contributes readiness to the base and to the wing. "Without effective insect and rodent control, diseases and sickness could overwhelm members which would affect deployments and mission completion," he said.

The EC team urges everyone to remember: the key to a successful pest management program is proper sanitation, keeping areas clean and free of garbage, and properly sealing cracks and crevices to prevent insects from entering your home.




Joyce Cote, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, sprays a section of grass for dandelions using a Cushman turf sprayer.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Ryan Wilson

Staff Sgt. Jeromy Bryington, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Assistant NCO in charge of Environmental Controls, uses a hand sprayer as a last resort for insect problems.





## Education

For more details, visit the education center Web site at <https://wwwmil.whiteman.af.mil/509mss/educ/home-page.htm>

### Office closure scheduled

The base training and education services office closes at 1 p.m. May 6 to allow time to set up for the all-schools graduation ceremony at State Fair Community College's multi-purpose building. The graduation begins at 6 p.m.

### All-schools graduation set

All-schools graduation for Community College of the Air Force, State Fair Community College, and Park and Webster universities begins at 6 p.m. May 6 at the SFCC main campus in Sedalia. Refreshments will be served.

## Community

### Retreat, reveille set

The airman leadership school Class 05-D retreat ceremony begins at 4 p.m. today at the base flagpole. Participants must be in place by 3:45 p.m.

The class's reveille ceremony begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday at the ALS drill pad. Participants must be in place by 7:25 a.m. For more details, call 687-4498.

### CMSU holds appreciation day

Central Missouri State University's Mules baseball team hosts a military appreciation day Saturday. Military members and their families get in free with a military ID card for the double header against the Washburn Universi-

ty Ichabods. The first game starts at 1 p.m. at James R. Crane Stadium/Robert N. Tompkins Field. For more details, call the public affairs office at 687-6123.

### Base garage sale takes place

The base garage sale takes place May 7 throughout base housing and in the Mission's End parking lot. People who want to sell items must sign up by Tuesday at the housing office or e-mail [benjamin.falk@whiteman.af.mil](mailto:benjamin.falk@whiteman.af.mil). Include name, home phone, duty phone, and specify base housing address or Mission's End parking lot. Maps of participating houses will be sent out via e-mail and are available at the housing office May 7.

### WESO craft fair

The Whiteman Enlisted Community Organization sponsors a craft show 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 7 at Knob Noster High School. To purchase a booth or to display crafts at the show, e-mail Joanna Bradshaw at [craftshow2005@yahoo.com](mailto:craftshow2005@yahoo.com).

### Open house set

An Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month open house begins at 11 a.m. May 7 at the community center. The events include:

- ✓ 11:10 a.m. — Vietnamese egg roll making demonstration
- ✓ 11:30 a.m. — Polynesian dances
- ✓ Noon — Tae kwan do demonstration
- ✓ 12:30 p.m. — Origami art making
- ✓ 1 p.m. — Philippine folk dance
- ✓ 1:30 p.m. — Filipino folk songs

Participants can sample free food including lumpia, pancit, Thai soup, chicken fried rice, beef salad and sushi.

A volunteer meeting begins at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the community center. For more details, call Master Sgts. Pete Villanueva at 687-4730, Greg Scott at 687-5732 or Regina Anderson at 687-5738.

### Case lot sale set

The commissary's case lot sale takes place 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. May 14 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. May 15. For more details, call Margaret Joyner or Carol Lakey at 687-5655.

## Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

### TAP helps people leaving military

A three-day transition assistance program for people separating or retiring from the military begins at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Attendees will learn basic resume writing skills, interviewing skills, salary negotiation, and receive information on education and Veterans Administration benefits. Reservations are required.

### WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 660-747-2012.

### Pre-deployment briefing set

A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This briefing covers information about preparing for deployment and programs available to family members who are left behind.

# This space is reserved for advertisements

# ‘Chicken Soup’ project dishes story for Whiteman spouse

**By Carolyn Knothe**  
Special to the Whiteman Spirit

Few military spouses have the opportunity to tell their story. One Whiteman spouse not only got that opportunity, but she shared her story in a nationally published book.

In March 2003, Jennifer Minor received an e-mail from a friend, telling her that a project for the popular “Chicken Soup for the Soul” book series was seeking stories from military spouses about military life. Having just had a noteworthy experience herself, Mrs. Minor decided to write a submission for the proposed project.

“I forgot about it,” said Mrs. Minor, whose husband, Capt. Kevin Minor, is a pilot in the 394th Combat Training Squadron. “But a year and a half later, in September 2004, I got a reply saying I’d made the first cut.”

“Chicken Soup for the Military Wife’s Soul” hit the shelves Tuesday. Editors combed through thousands of submissions to pick the final 101 stories, Mrs. Minor said.

“The book’s all about this second world that we military wives live in,” she said.

Mrs. Minor, who writes as a hobby but has never had anything published before, wrote about an experience she had one Valentine’s Day. Her husband was gone, so she went out to eat at a Chinese restaurant with their two daughters. A stranger paid for their meal after he learned they were a military family.

“He was such a unique character,” Mrs. Minor said. “You wouldn’t think he’d be affected by us, but he was touched and wanted to do something for us. I’ve thought about going back there to see if I could find him and give him the book.”

Mrs. Minor said the story had another purpose.

“I think the story was chosen because it shows the hard-

ships that spouses face,” Capt. Minor said.

Mrs. Minor thinks the new book will strike a chord with military wives.

“We crave that feeling that someone understands us,” she said. “It’s a wonderful way for women to feel like they’re not alone.

“The military life is so different from what is considered normal. You have to rely on your military family to support you,” she said.

Captain Minor said he thinks his wife shows how important a supportive spouse is to those in the military.

“I have complete confidence in her ability to take care of our family, our house and all of our finances,” he said. “She allows me to go serve the country all over the world without having to worry about any problems at home.”

This space is reserved for advertisements



Whiteman celebrates Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month

# Airman humbled by life experiences

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Public Affairs

Members of the 509th Bomb Wing Ground Safety Office rave about Senior Airman Raquel Onedera, the 2004 509th BW staff Airman of the Year.

“She excels in everything she does,” said Master Sgt. Danny Andrews, flight safety superintendent. “She just wants to be the best.”

“Someone had an impact in her life,” said Maj. Shawn Purvis, 509th BW chief of safety. “Someone instilled that in her.”

What they may not know is, the people who impacted Airman Onedera’s life the most, passed away 16 years ago.

## Tragedy at sea

It was supposed to be a celebration of a new life in the United States. Instead, a beach party brought the tragic end of three lives and forever changed two others.

Airman Onedera was 6 years old when relatives and friends held a going away party for her, her parents and older brother. This would be their final farewell to the Philippines before departing to the United States for the promise of a better life. The family decided to celebrate on the white sandy beaches of Illocos Sur, a popular place for social gatherings and parties.

The beautiful sunny weather gave no indication of what struck next, Airman Onedera said.

Airman Onedera said she doesn’t remember exactly how it happened; she learned the story from relatives. Some family members say the boat’s driver was intoxicated, others say a large wave overturned the boat, which carried Airman Onedera, her older brother, Roderick, and her parents, Leopoldo and Leonida, and a cousin.

“I don’t remember being in it,” said Airman Onedera, 22. “To me, it feels like a really sad story.”

Whatever the case, the five passengers were thrown into the sea. Roderick swam back to shore with his younger sister. Airman Onedera’s parents never returned.

After the accident, she said she remembers lying on a hospital bed after being treated for shock. She said no one told her what happened to her parents. “Then I heard people crying downstairs,” she said.

For Airman Onedera, a new story



Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Mat Nisotis

**Senior Airman Raquel Onedera, 509th Bomb Wing, said she is living her parents’ dream. Her parents, Leopoldo and Leonida, passed away in a boating accident when Airman Onedera was 6.**

began.

Her father’s sister, Elvie, adopted Airman Onedera and Roderick, and the family moved to Seattle where the children began a new life in the United States without their parents.

Airman Onedera graduated from Seattle’s Franklin High School in 2001 and became the first woman in her family to join the military. She said the Air Force gave her a chance at a career, education and, more importantly, an opportunity to excel.

“Not having my parents around kind of pushes me more to do things to better

myself,” she said.

After working as an administrative assistant for the 325th Bomb Squadron, she moved to the same position in the wing’s ground safety office. At ground safety, she implemented a new system that allowed tasks to be carried out quickly. The Air Combat Command Inspector General team named her an outstanding performer during the 2004 Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection.

“Her ability and maturity is so much more than you’d expect from someone her age,” Major Purvis said.

Airman Onedera said part of that matu-

riety comes from growing up without knowing her parents. The other part came from a return to the Philippines.

## Return home

In the summer of 1996, Airman Onedera left Seattle for the Philippines to attend a wedding of her half brother.

She said her aunt told her to stay and experience Filipino culture, attend school there and develop a respect for her life in America.

“What shocked me most was the houses,” Airman Onedera said, noting that in some parts of the cities, people lived in houses made of cardboard and metal sheets. She also saw children running into oncoming traffic, begging for money.

“Seeing that made me realize I appreciate all I have now, living in the United States,” she said. “It makes me take more value in what I have and to not take things for granted, because there’s other people who don’t have what I have.”

Airman Onedera experienced life as her parents did. She joined her extended family in Baguio City on the western tip of Luzon, the largest isle of the Philippines. There, Airman Onedera helped the family plant rice and prepare tobacco just as her late parents had done.

“Comparing life there to here is so different,” she said. “Here you can find a job anywhere and work anywhere — even if you don’t have a degree. But in the Philippines, even if you have a degree, you’ll end up working at a restaurant or a fast food place.”

She said when she returned to the United States in 1999, she came back a different person.

“I was a lot different,” Airman Onedera said. “I matured.”

That maturity has translated into success today. Airman Onedera maintains a busy life. She attends classes part time at State Fair Community College, and also volunteers for the Whiteman Airmen’s Council and at the Missouri Veteran’s Home in Warrensburg. However, she put those activities on hold as she and her husband, Justin, prepare for the birth of their first child.

Airman Onedera said she is willing to accept any challenges that fall in her lap.

And, with any challenge, she said she remembers that she’s fulfilled the dream of her parents: to live and prosper in America.

## 1st Sergeant's View

*(Editor’s note: The 1st Sergeant’s View gives Whiteman first sergeants a chance to remind people of correct uniform wear, customs and courtesies, and proper military decorum.)*

By Master Sgt. James Delap

509th Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** — Here I sit working yet another 14- to 16-hour day. The pace here is incredible, because the mission never stops.

I’ve seen a lot of amazing things happen. I’ve seen folks step up and do things no one thought they could do. There are senior airmen on this deployment acting and working like technical sergeants, and there are lieutenants you would think are majors.

At the same time, I’ve seen some troops here do exactly what they are told — no more, no less. These are the ones who didn’t want to deploy, don’t want to be here and refuse to put any effort into the job.

Another group of people are the ones who have a great attitude, work hard and put all their effort into the job, but just lack the skills needed to succeed in a deployed

location. Their lack of success isn’t their fault. They just haven’t been given the tools needed to succeed in a place with this kind of pace. There’s no time, and the consequences are too severe to have someone who isn’t prepared for work and life in an austere deployment location.

The point I’m trying to make is this: a deployed location is the place to send the best you have. What we do at the home station is training for deployment. I’m not saying what we do at home isn’t important, but exactly the opposite. What we do and how we do it at home is the most vital part of a successful deployment.

Home is where we should do our learning. If your unit is tasked for a troop to fill a deployed flight chief position, send the flight chief or someone who has held that position in the past.

If you’re filling a squadron superintendent position send the superintendent. A deployment at the tip of the spear isn’t the place to find out the person you sent can’t handle the job. As I said before, we train at home station — not at the deployed location.

Also, we should never send a troop we think might have disciplinary problems. While the infrastructure is in place to handle the problems that may occur, it’s a terrible detractor from the mission. Anything that distracts from the mission or causes someone to lose focus can have terrible life-altering consequences.

The next time your squadron is tasked for a deployment, remember it’s not an inconvenience. It’s also not a



Courtesy photo

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** — Master Sgts. James Delap and Oscar Ortiz build a unit recognition board. The board displays photos of their squadron’s monthly award winners. Sergeant Delap is deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and Sergeant Ortiz is deployed from Randolph AFB, Texas.

time to say, “I don’t want to send my star troop, I need him/her here.”

A deployment is exactly the time you want to send your star troops so they can go take care of business.

Bottom line: we train to fight wars, hope and pray we never have to, but prepare ourselves in case we do. Don’t send anything but your best, otherwise we’re wasting our time and putting troops at risk.



# Whiteman teen earns \$4,000 in scholarships

Brandon Wielert, a member of the Whiteman Air Force Base Teen Center, was named the 2005 Youth of the Year for Missouri by Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The honor included \$4,000 in scholarships.

Mr. Weilert said he has always been a leader. At home, he followed in his older brother’s footsteps and served as a role model for his younger sister. When his father, retired Master Sgt. James Wielert, was deployed for 196 days in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the now 17-year-old stepped up at home and took on many of the household responsibilities.

Brandon is also active in community service. He received the Congressional Medal for volunteering more than 300 hours. He’s involved in local community programs such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the American Red Cross and Court Appointed Special Advocate. He enjoys volunteering at the child development center. Through this program, he works with young children and helps them with any problems or issues they face. This volunteer work has inspired Brandon to pursue child developmental psychology.

Brandon now competes for the Midwest Youth of the Year title. If named regional winner, he would be awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship and advance to the national competition with a chance to win an additional \$10,000 college scholarship.

The Youth of the Year program, nationally sponsored by The Reader’s Digest Foundation, is in its 58th year. The program recognizes outstanding contributions to a member’s family, school, community and Boys and Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

Members of Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Missouri competed for the 2005 honor, but it was the Whiteman teen who walked away with the title. *(Courtesy of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America)*



Brandon Wielert

This space is reserved for family album

This space is reserved for advertisements





Services Page editor.....Poppy Arthurton  
509th Services Squadron.....687-7929  
\*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

## Community Activities

### Skills Development Center 687-5691

#### Spin and win!

Throughout May, customers have one chance a day to spin the wheel and win a 5, 10, 15 or 20 percent discount off their purchase at the skills development center (not including consigned items).

#### Metal power bandsaw training

Learn to safely operate a metal power bandsaw 1-3 p.m. Wednesday at auto skills center. The cost is \$10, which includes supplies.

#### Mother's Day gift making

Fathers can help their children, ages 6-18, make the perfect Mother's Day gift 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the skills development center. Beaded jewelry can be made for as little as \$10 using the supplies of colored wire and glass beads. Sign up by Wednesday. If fathers are deployed, moms can ask about an alternative class time.

#### Framing class

Bring a 5x7 or smaller picture to the skills development center and learn how to cut single and double mats, assemble, cut glass and join a frame. The classes are 6-9 p.m. May 12 and 26. The cost is \$25 per person or \$37.50 for a married couple.

#### Beginner crochet class

Find a new hobby and meet other people at a class especially for first-time crocheters 6-8 p.m. May 19 at the skills development center. The cost is \$10, which includes supplies. Sign up by noon May 18.

### Youth Center 687-5586

#### Silver Dollar City and caving trip

There is a fifth to seventh-grade field trip to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., leaving at 8 a.m. Saturday from the youth center. Youths will visit Marvel Cave while in the park, as well as enjoy the rides. Participants should bring extra money for food and drinks. The youth center will pay for the admission into the park. Sign up early because spots are limited. The cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. The cost is offset by Air Combat Command Trail funds. Payment is due at the time of registration. The van will return by 9 p.m.

#### Trip to Tan-Tar-A indoor water park

Fifth-seventh graders can go to an indoor water park in Osage Beach, Mo. The van departs at 9 a.m. May 7 from the youth center. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Participants should bring extra money for food, and remember their swimsuits and towels. Places are limited so sign up early.

### Teen Center 687-5819

#### Worlds of Fun trip

Teens can enjoy a day at the amusement park in Kansas City, Mo., 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday. Enjoy roller coasters and many other attractions. Bring money for admission into the park and for food. Sign up now.

#### Job Ready

The new Job Ready program takes place 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays. Learn important skills that may help you land the job of your dreams. Subjects include understanding and completing job applications and requesting letters of reference.

#### Arabia steamboat and farmers' market

Admire the artifacts uncovered from the sunken steamboat and explore the farmers' market 10 a.m.-8 p.m. May 7. Slots are limited so sign up at the teen center as soon as possible. Participants should bring money for entrance fees and food.

#### Youth Employment Skills meeting

Parents and high school students can learn more about the volunteer program allowing teens to bank up to \$1,000 toward their post-secondary education. This meeting takes place 6-8 p.m. May 10 at the teen center.

#### Teen barbecue and fishing party

Teens can join their friends for a barbecue and fishing contest 8 a.m.-6 p.m. May 21 at the base lake. There will be a prize for the biggest fish caught. The cost is \$5, which includes food and fishing equipment. Don't forget to bring sunblock!

### Community Center 687-5617

#### Snoopy lives

Children 5 and older can make a recycled Snoopy Bank with a parent 1-2 p.m. Saturday. Participants can enjoy the entertaining and educational film "The Rotten Truth." This is a free event.

#### Cookie challenge

Demonstrate your baking prowess with an entry in the community center cookie competition. People can submit one dozen cookies for each of the four categories: holiday or special occasion, healthy, no bake or cookie maker's special. Cookies will be judged on taste, creativity and appearance. The original recipe must be submitted and may be included in the Air Combat Command Family Members' cookbook. Pick up an entry form from the community center and deliver your cookies by Monday.

### Family Child Care 687-1180

#### Providers appreciation evening

Families, friends and supporters of family child care are invited to attend the provider appreciation ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the community center. Participants should bring an appetizer to share.

### Veterinary Clinic 687-2667

#### Does your pet have bad breath?

The Whiteman vet clinic carries a large selection of dental products for pets. Toothpaste, water additives and Greenies0 chews are available to help with a pet's oral hygiene. Call or visit the clinic at 401 Lockbourne Terrace. It's open 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## Movie Schedule

Friday		
<b>Robots</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>PG</b>
Featuring the voices of Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry and Robin Williams		
Saturday		
<b>Ice Princess</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>	<b>G</b>
Starring - Michelle Trachtenberg and Joan Cusack		
<b>The Ring 2</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>PG-13</b>
Starring - Naomi Watts and Simon Baker		
Sunday		
<b>Hostage</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>R</b>
Starring- Bruce Willis and Kevin Pollak		

Adults: \$3.50    Children: \$1.75  
 Movie Recording Line: 687-5110  
 Movies subject to change due to  
 availability. For current and future movie  
 listings log on to  
<http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm>.

## Sports & Recreation

### Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

#### Wall climbing

A free climbing certification course takes place 2-4 p.m. May 7 at outdoor recreation. Learn the skills needed to climb the 20-foot wall as well as basic safety procedures and how to use climbing equipment.

#### Boater safety course (ski boat)

People who are interested in renting a boat from outdoor recreation must take a certification class. The next ski boat class is 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 7 at Windsor Crossing. The cost is \$5. Call outdoor recreation for more details.

#### Long Shoals launch

An intramural bass fishing tournament begins at 12:30 p.m. May 12 at Truman Lake. Participants can register and pay a one-time fee of \$20 at outdoor recreation. This allows people to participate in the 10 remaining tournaments. Call outdoor recreation for details.

#### Discount pool passes

Base members can purchase discount season passes to the pool beginning Sunday at outdoor recreation. The prices are \$45 for a family and \$20 for a single pass. The cost increases \$5 after May 26. The pool opens May 27 with free swimming all weekend for ID card holders.

### Fitness Center 687-5496

#### Armed Forces Day 5K run/walk

Run or walk 5K to celebrate Armed Forces Day with the fitness center. This event starts at noon May 20 from the fitness center.

#### Whiteman triathlon

Start training now for the June 18 Whiteman triathlon. The triathlon includes swimming 520 meters, a 10K bike ride and a 5K run. There are male and female individual open divisions and team divisions. Teams can be co-ed and must have a swimmer, runner and cyclist.

## Food & Fun

### Stars and Strikes 687-5114

#### Mother's Day special

Celebrate Mother's Day with a free game for every mom who bowls at Stars and Strikes May 8.

### Mission's End 687-4422

#### Mother's Day brunch

Treat Mom to brunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m. May 8 at Mission's End. The menu is: scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, sausage, hashbrowns, beef, ham, chicken, salad and fruit. Moms eat for \$1. The cost is \$10 for people 13 years and older, \$8 for ages 6-12 and \$2 for children 5 and under. Club members and their families receive a \$2 discount. Club discount doesn't apply to moms eating for \$1.

#### Major League Baseball

Club members can watch 60 untelevised games a week for free in the Lavene Lounge.

### Tickets & Travel 687-5643

World Wrestling Entertainment Smackdown begins at 7:30 p.m. June 7 at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. Tickets and travel, located in the skills development center, has access to tickets before they are released to the general public. Call or stop by before Wednesday to get the best seats. Prices vary from \$16.75 for upper level seating to \$36.75 for floor level. Visit <http://www.wwe.com> for more details about the show.